

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6773

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, CO
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS JULY 25-29 NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN
MINSTERS' MEETING AT BELGRADE

REF: (A) STATE 178240, (B) STATE 178242

1. PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTION IN REFTELS, POLITICAL COUNSELOR MET THIS MORNING WITH AMB. JOAQUIN FONSECA, SUBSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES IN COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND, DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT, PRESENTED US POSITION ON KEY ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE AT FORTHCOMING NAM IN BELGRADE. FONSECA COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON ALL THESE ISSUES.
2. REGARDING COLOMBIAN ROLE IN NAM, FONSECA NOTED THE GOC HAD NEVER ATTENDED MEETINGS OF THAT ORGANIZATION EXCEPT IN CAPABILITY OF OBSERVER. HE AND OTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD RECOMMENDED THAT COLOMBIA TAKE MORE ACTIVE PART IN NAM, BUT FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO HAD TURNED DOWN SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS. LIEVANO HAD ALSO REJECTED US SUGGESTION THAT COLOMBIAN AM-
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BASSADOR TO EUROPEAN OFFICE OF UN IN GENEVA, CHARRY SAMPER, REPRESENT GOC AT BELGRADE MEETING AND HAD DECIDED INSTEAD TO ACCREDIT COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, MARIO MEJIA MEDINA. DESCRIBING MEJIA AS POLITICIAN OF LITTLE ABILITY, FONSECA SAID FORMER'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO KEEP FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND NOT TO INTERVENE UNLESS SO DIRECTED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO CUBAN ISSUE, FONSECA SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT CUBA WAS NOT A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND IT SEEMED LIKELY CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA WOULD COME UNDER HEAVY FIRE AT BELGRADE MEETING. NEVERTHELESS, COLOMBIA'S RELATIONS WITH CUBA HAD NEVER BEEN MORE CORDIAL ANF GOC PREFERRED NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN DISPUTE OVER CUBA'S AFRICAN ROLE.

4. RE THE MIDDLE EAST, FONSECA DESCRIBED THE GOC POSITION AS "BALANCED" AND BASED ON THREE SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES: THE RIGHT OF ALL COUNTRIES IN THE AREA TO ENJOY AN INDEPENDENT AND SECURE EXISTENCE; REJECTION OF TERRITORIAL AGGRANDIZEMENT BY FORCE; AND A JUST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE "PALESTINIAN REFUGEES." THE COLOMBIAN PRESS, WHICH WAS OVER-WHELMINGLY PRO-ISRAEL, HAD SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNOENT'S POSITION, BUT THE GOC WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT POLICY. IN KEEPING WITH THIS POLICY, THE GOC REJECTED ANY ATTEMPT TO LINK ZIONISM AND RACISM.

5. THE GOC STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE GOALS OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE US GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON NAMIBIA, FONSECA DECLARED.

6. ON THE QUESTION OF MASS MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS IN THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FONSECA ONLY OBSERVED THAT THE GOC, BEING A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, WAS COMMITTED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. HE USED THE QUESTION AS A SPRINGBOARD, HOWEVER, TO DISCUSS A RELATED SUBJECT, THAT OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES IN WHICH, HE SAID, COLOMBIA AS AN EQUATORIAL COUNTRY HAD A SPECIAL INTEREST. THE GOC BELIEVED THAT EVERY COUNTRY ENJOYED CERTAIN RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE AIR SPACE OVER ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY AND WAS NTT PREPARED TO CONCEDE THAT, AS THE SOVIET UNION AND US CONTENTED, SUCH RIGHTS EXTENDED ONLY TO CERTAIN ALTITUDE OR WERE OTHERWISE LIMITED.

7. WITH REGARD TO PUERTO RICO, FTNSECA REMARKED THAT, WHILE MOST COLOMBIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ISLAN D INDEPENDENT, THEY RECOGNIZED THE FACT THAT THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAD FREELY CHOSEN NOT TO SEEK INDEPENDENCE. THE GOC RESPECTED THE EXPRESSION OF THE PUERTO RICAN WILL AS MANIFESTED IN SEVERAL ELECTIONS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE US POSITION THAT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THE MATTER WAS INAPPROPRIATE.

8. RECALLING THAT COLOMBIAN TROOPS HAD FTUGHT IN KOREA, FONSECA SAID THE GOC'S POSITION HAD ALWAYS BEEN THAT THE KOREAN QUESTION SHOULD BE SETTLED BY DIRECT DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNLFM EVEN THOUGH COLOMBIA MIGHT

RECOGNIZE THE PRC SOMETIME AFTER THE INAUGURATION OF
PRESIDENT-ELECT TURBAY, THE COLOMBIAN POSITION ON KOREA
WOULD REMAIN CONSTANT.
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